

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss M. James, Miss F. Simson, Miss R. Thompson, Miss N. McKenzie.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What do you know of chorea, its mode of development, the diseases to which it is allied, and the nursing care necessary?

NURSING AND THE WAR.**THE ROYAL RED CROSS.**

The following ladies had the honour of being received by the King on Saturday last, when His Majesty conferred upon them the decoration of the Royal Red Cross:—

FIRST CLASS.

Principal Matron Jane Purves, Territorial Force Nursing Service; Matron Martha Mark, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; Matron Margaret Brown, Territorial Force Nursing Service; and Sister Christina MacRae, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

SECOND CLASS.

Staff Nurse Margaret Smith, Territorial Force Nursing Service; Miss Ethel Davidson, Australian Army Nursing Service; and Miss Margaret Whitson British Red Cross Society.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* of October 19th contained a despatch from Lieut.-General Sir Percy Lake, Commanding the Forces in Mesopotamia, submitting a detailed list of officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men whom he desired to bring to special notice on account of their services in the operations for the relief of Kut-el-Amara. The following are included in the list:—

NURSING ORDERLIES.—Butler, No. 416, Pte. O. F., 21st Lancers; Fairbrother, No. 9455, Pte. A., Oxs. and Bucks. L.I.; Saunders, No. 8702, Pte. W., Hants. R.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MILITARY NURSING SERVICE FOR INDIA.—Cusins, Miss C. L., Lady Supt.; Watt, Miss P. F., Lady Supt., R.R.C.

It will be remembered that Miss Watt received the Royal Red Cross when Matron of the Rawal Pindi Hospital in France. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Members of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association object to voluntary Red Cross workers assuming the title of "Military Nurse." These workers are being advertised for for nursing abroad, and need only have first aid and home nursing certificates. Miss Gretta Lyons writes from Melbourne:—

"I would like to state that up to the present time the 400 odd military nurses from this State who are on active service with our troops have all had to show they possessed a three years'

general nursing certificate, and were members of the R.V.T.N.A. In justice to these women, I should think the voluntary workers would choose some other title than that of 'Military Nurse.'"

She adds: "At this crisis what immense value legal status with the protection of the title of 'Registered Nurse' would have been to us."

Another correspondent from Australia writes:—

"We are having a very serious shortage of nurses for the civilian population. Voluntary Red Cross workers could find much to do to help in social reform, nursing in districts, &c.; but this real help to the nation's sick they will not give; they are all for following the troops, and don't care in the least for the sick wife and children they may leave behind. To make heroines of these girls, who are not inspired by the real spirit of nursing—which is nothing if not inspired by self-denial—is fostering in them a most sickly, not to say dangerous sentimentality."

In this connection we have before us a most suggestive article on "District Nursing as Patriotic Work," by Miss Thekla Bowser, from *The Queen*. In it she tells of the great success which has resulted from an organised experiment tried by the Lady Superintendent of the Birmingham District Nursing Society over a year ago, when she found that her staff of fully trained nurses was so depleted that the sick inhabitants of the crowded districts round the great Midland city could not be properly nursed. She applied to the headquarters of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Birmingham for help, and this was quickly organised, with the result that the sick poor of Birmingham have been thoroughly well attended to, and are no longer suffering as they were from lack of nursing.

"The scheme organised by this Lady Superintendent—who, of course, is a fully trained nurse—was that the St. John Nursing members, all of whom had a certain amount of nursing knowledge, should go round the district for one month with a fully trained nurse belonging to the District Nursing Society. In this way the St. John nurse was initiated into the methods of district nursing, and at the end of the month, and sometimes even before it had expired, she was perfectly capable of taking on cases by herself which had already been visited by a fully trained nurse. St. John members are never sent to a new case, but after it has been visited by a regular Sister, the St. John nurse can continue the work, although the trained Sister keeps a watchful eye and will occasionally pay surprise visits.

"The scheme has been worked out in a thoroughly businesslike manner, one St. John Commandant in Birmingham having been appointed to manage it. She endeavours to supply the Nursing Society with eighteen members a week, each one of these members doing one shift in the day. The member reports herself at the office of the Lady Superintendent before nine o'clock in the morning. She is told what cases she is to visit, and she sets off on a round which

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